



**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
[adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov)

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463  
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City of Pell City  
St. Clair County

SRF Project No. CS010239-06

August 7, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$5,867,979.00** in financial assistance available to the **City of Pell City** utilizing funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the program, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has conducted a review to assess the potential impacts upon the environment that may result from implementation of this project.

The City of Pell City proposes to construct a new lift station and associated force main. The proposed project would replace two existing lift stations which have outlasted the useful life of the equipment with one new lift station and associated force main. The proposed project will increase reliability for existing customers and prevent future sanitary sewer overflows.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from further environmental study under the guidelines specified by the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) which specifically include actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments related to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Kelly Bibb, SRF Section, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of this public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Edward Poolos  
Director

EFP/MDM/KMB/kbh

Attachment



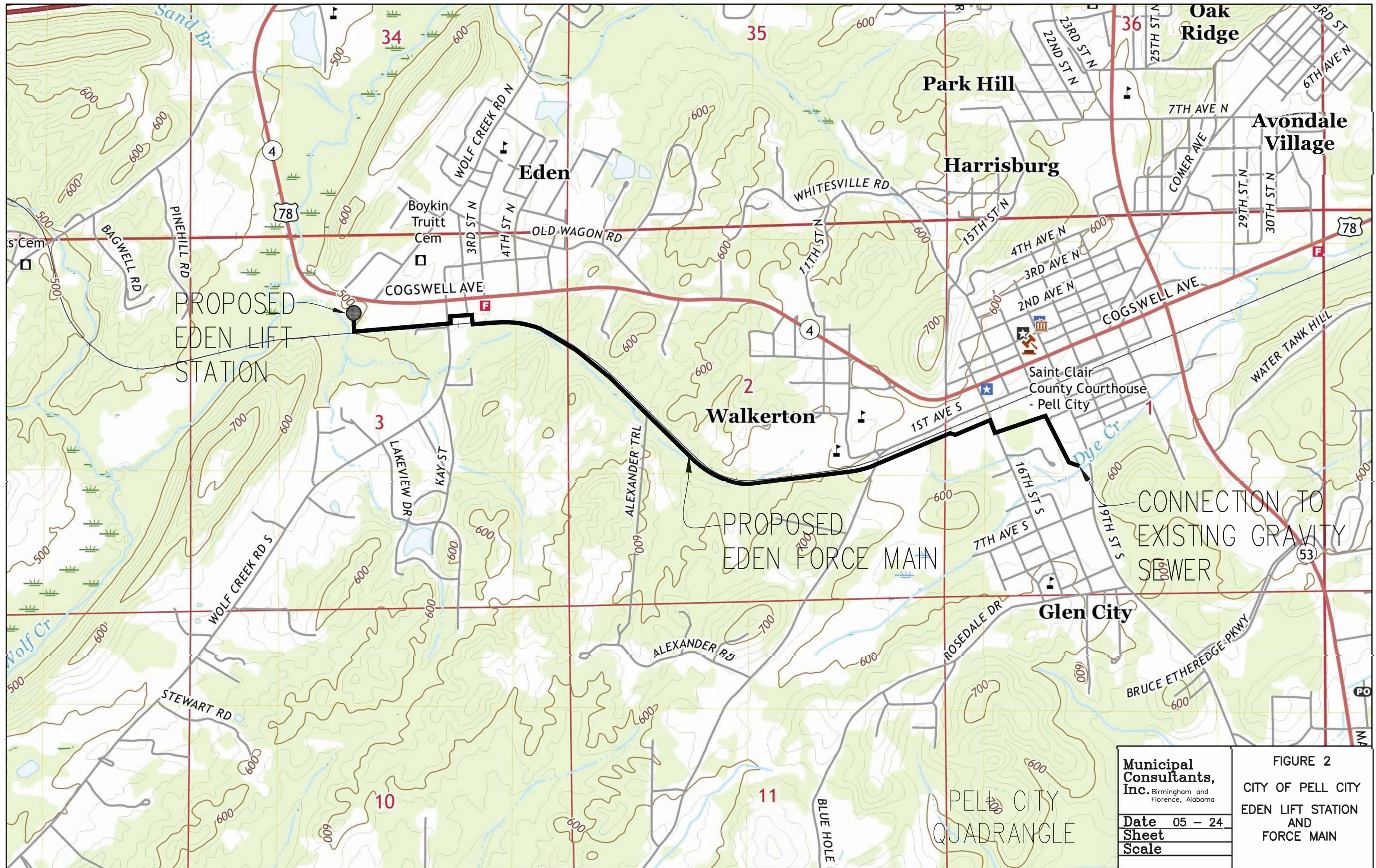
**Birmingham Office**  
110 Vulcan Road  
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702  
(205) 942-6168  
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

**Decatur Office**  
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.  
Decatur, AL 35603-1333  
(256) 353-1713  
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

**Coastal Office**  
1615 South Broad Street  
Mobile, AL 36605  
(251) 450-3400  
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

The Categorical Exclusion is promulgated in the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) in Part IV, Section B: Categorical Exclusions for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following clean water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
  - a. *Actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities;*
  - b. *Actions which do not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility including, but not limited to, infiltration and inflow corrections, replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures, and the construction of small structures on existing sites;*
  - c. Actions which are for minor upgrading and minor expansion of existing treatment works in sewered communities with a population less than 10,000;
  - d. Actions where on-site technologies are proposed in unsewered communities of less than 10,000;
  - e. Construction of new wastewater collection systems for existing communities, only if ancillary or appurtenant to existing facilities;
  - f. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.B.1 a-f do not apply)
  
2. In order to determine if a clean water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following conditions must not apply:
  - a. The action is known or expected to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, State, local, tribal or private actions.
  - b. The action is known or expected to adversely impact:
    - (1) Cultural resources areas such as archaeological and historical sites,
    - (2) Endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats,
    - (3) Environmentally important natural resources areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, or aquifer recharging zones.
  - c. This action is known (or expected not) to be cost-effective or to cause significant public controversy.
  - d. The facilities to be provided will:
    - (1) Create a new, or
    - (2) Significantly relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters.
  - e. The facilities will result in more than 30% increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters.
  - f. The facilities would provide capacity to serve a population 30% higher than the anticipated design population.



PROPOSED  
EDEN LIFT  
STATION

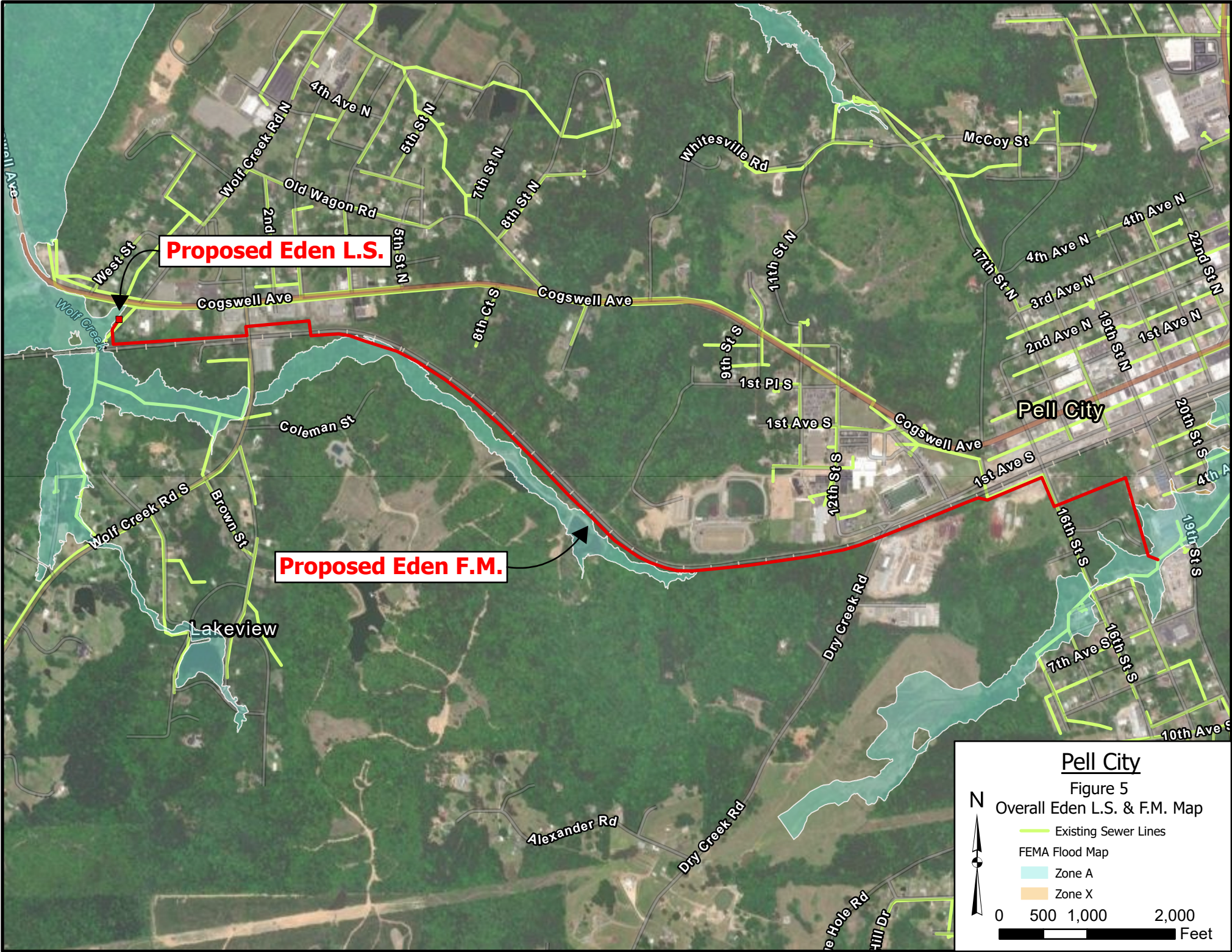
PROPOSED  
EDEN FORCE MAIN

CONNECTION TO  
EXISTING GRAVITY  
SEWER

PELL CITY  
QUADRANGLE

<b>Municipal Consultants, Inc.</b> <small>Birmingham and Florence, Alabama</small>
<b>Date</b> 05 - 24
<b>Sheet</b>
<b>Scale</b>

**FIGURE 2**  
**CITY OF PELL CITY**  
**EDEN LIFT STATION AND FORCE MAIN**



**Proposed Eden L.S.**

**Proposed Eden F.M.**

**Pell City**

**Lakeview**

**Pell City**  
 Figure 5  
 Overall Eden L.S. & F.M. Map

- Existing Sewer Lines
- FEMA Flood Map
  - Zone A
  - Zone X

0 500 1,000 2,000  
 Feet

May 23, 2023

The City of Pell City  
1905 First Avenue North  
Pell City, AL 35125  
Attn: Brian Muenger

**Re: RESOLUTION No. 2023-5872**  
**Alabama Historical Commission &**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Eden Lift Station and Force Main Corridor  
Pell City, St Clair County, Alabama

Pursuant to Resolution No 2023-5872 and Interoffice Memorandum dated April 6, 2023, Geo-Source, Inc. has completed the consultations with the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) through its Section 106 Project Review and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the proposed Eden Lift Station and Force Main. These consultations were to satisfy requisites for ADEM funding through the State Revolving Fund.

Alabama Historical Commission (AHC):

The Section 106 Project Review Consultation (AHC 23-0763) was submitted to the AHC that concluded there were no properties within the "Area of Potential Effect" that conveyed "significance" relevant to the National Register of Historic Places and the proposed project does not impact any Historical Districts within Pell City. With the condition that the corridor crosses existing and previously disturbed areas, no further consultation is needed. Should archaeological materials or burial sites be discovered, work should cease and contact made with the AHC.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):

With the condition that any tree removal be conducted between October 15 and March 31 for the protection of threatened or endangered bat species, no further consultation is needed with the USFWS. A survey for *Clematis socialis* (Alabama leather flower) was conducted and concluded there are no populations present. To the benefit of future projects in downtown Pell City, the USFWS has concluded this species does not inhabit the downtown area as it, "falls outside of the current range" and therefore future projects within Pell City will not be subject to surveys for this endangered plant. The aquatic mussels referenced by the USFWS are irrelevant to the proposed project as there are no streams or rivers for critical habitat.

Provided with this letter is the AHC Section 106 Project Review Consultation, AHC Response Letter, the USFWS Survey for *Clematis socialis*, and the USFWS Response Letter. In addition, I am enclosing a copy of Resolution 2023-5872 and aforementioned Interoffice Memorandum along with the Invoice in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the City of Pell City and should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W Trimble".

**Geo-Source, Inc**

John W Trimble, REM



# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Lisa D. Jones  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Tel: 334-242-3184  
Fax: 334-242-1083

May 1, 2023

John Trimble  
Geo-Source, Inc.  
462 North Court Street  
Florence, AL 35630

Re: AHC 23-0763  
Proposed Eden Lift Station and Force Main  
St. Clair County

Dear Mr. Trimble:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within **existing and previously disturbed** highway right-of-way and/or other previously disturbed areas. For the purposes of this letter, previous disturbance is defined as mechanical disturbance to either culturally sterile subsoil, or the maximum depth of the proposed undertaking. It should be noted that agricultural plowing does not typically meet this threshold of disturbance, nor do previously undisturbed portions of the ROW that require clearing of additional vegetation. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to ensure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or [Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov). Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/AMH/nj



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

MAY 05 2023

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2023-0077451

Mr. John W. Trimble  
Geo-Source, Inc.  
462 N. Court Street  
Florence, AL 35630

Dear Mr. Trimble:

Thank you for your letter received by this office on May 2, 2023, requesting comments on the proposed construction and installation of the Eden Lift Station and Force Main in Pell City, St. Clair County, Alabama. We understand the Eden Lift Station will be located west of Wolf Creek Road south of Highway 78 with the Force Main corridor extending east along the north side and parallel with the Southern Railway railroad tracks south of Highway 78 to 16<sup>th</sup> Street. We have reviewed the information in your letter and provide the following comments in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

## **Federally Listed Species**

We have determined that the following federally listed species may occur in, near, or adjacent to the proposed project area:

- Gray bat, *Myotis grisescens* – Endangered
- Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis* – Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* – Endangered
- Coosa Moccasinshell, *Medionidus parvulus* – Endangered
- Finelined Pocketbook, *Hamiota altilis* – Threatened
- Ovate Clubshell, *Pleurobema perovatum* – Endangered
- Southern Clubshell, *Pleurobema decisum* – Endangered
- Southern Pigtoe, *Pleurobema georgianum* – Endangered
- Triangular Kidneyshell, *Ptychobranhus greenii* – Endangered
- Upland Combshell, *Epioblasma metastriata* – Endangered

We appreciate the survey results regarding the Alabama leather flower (*Clematis socialis*); however, the project area falls outside of the current range for this species.

## **Recommendations**

According to the information provided in your letter, the project area includes open or cleared mesic and some wet-mesic habitats. In regards to the three bat species, we recommend a thorough site investigation for any karst features within the project area (i.e., sinkholes, sinking streams, caves). If



such topographic features are located on or near the project area, we request that you inform our agency of their location so that we may determine if further consultation is necessary.

It is unclear from the information you provided in your letter whether tree removal is intended in the proposed project. Suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat habitat includes forests and woodlots containing potential roost trees, including live trees and/or snags  $\geq 5$  inches and  $\geq 3$  inches dbh, respectively, that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices or hollows. Some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors may also be considered suitable habitat. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. If the site contains possible Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat summer habitat, we recommend tree clearing should occur from October 15 to March 31.

If there are no karst features and no suitable habitat on site for the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat, or if there is suitable habitat and all tree removal for this project is carried out between October 15 and March 31, no further consultation will be necessary for the gray bat, Indiana bat, or northern long-eared bat. If this timing is not achievable and no other measures to avoid adverse effects are possible, then we recommend that you proceed to acoustic surveys to determine presence or probable absence of northern long eared bats and Indiana bats at the project site in accordance with the 2023 Range-wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines:

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html>

The aquatic species listed above are known to occur within the surrounding watersheds. If impacts to aquatic systems will occur, please contact this office for further consultation. We recommend project designs that maintain natural hydrology and incorporate the best management practices protect water quality and aquatic habitat. For specific techniques, see “The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas” (2018), available from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line at:

<https://alabamasoilandwater.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2018-Handbook-Vol-1.pdf>

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Erin Lentz of my staff at [erin\\_lentz@fws.gov](mailto:erin_lentz@fws.gov). Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203  
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216

August 19, 2024

North Branch  
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: No Permit Required, Department of the Army File Number SAM-2024-00662-MH9, Eden Lift Station and Force Main, St. Clair County, Alabama

City of Pell City  
c/o Geo-Source, Inc.  
Attention: John W. Trimble  
462 North Court Street  
Florence, Alabama 35630

Transmitted electronically to [jtrimble@geo-source.com](mailto:jtrimble@geo-source.com)

Dear Mr. Trimble:

This is in response to your July 15, 2024 letter, submitted on behalf of the City of Pell City, requesting Department of Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the proposed installation of a sewer lift station and 12,000 feet linear feet of force main utilizing directional boring techniques. The work would occur in Pell City, St. Clair County, Alabama. The approximate center coordinate of project is near latitude 33.58136, longitude -86.30055; the proposed lift station is located at latitude 33.589104, longitude -86.317577. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2024-00662-MH9, which should be referenced in all future correspondence regarding this project.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) requires that a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) requires DA authorization for the construction of any structure in, over, or under any navigable water of the United States. As indicated in your letter, the proposed force main installation has been planned to utilize directional boring methods to install the lines beneath five (5) stream features and two (2) wetlands that have been identified within the project alignment. Directional boring beneath jurisdictional waters is an activity typically not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as this method of installation would not involve the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S.

Based on our findings regarding Pell City's sewer lift station and force main installation project, as specified herein, a DA permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the RHA would not be required to implement the

directional bore installation of force mains under stream and wetland features, as proposed.

Should any wetland resources be identified within the project alignment during construction that would be impacted by other methods of pipeline installation, such as open trench methods, Nationwide Permit 58 (NWP 58) for Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances may be applicable to the proposed work. A copy of NWP 58 is enclosed for reference as further planning for project implementation is undertaken.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property or obviate the requirements to obtain other local, State, or Federal assents required by law for the activities discussed above. If the scope of work or project locations change, you are urged to contact this office for a verification of this determination.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. Please contact me at (205) 603-2832, or at [molly.hacker@usace.army.mil](mailto:molly.hacker@usace.army.mil) if you have any questions concerning this matter. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, you may visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located under the menu header on the right side of our webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Sincerely,  
**Molly**  
**Hacker**  
Molly Hacker  
Project Manager

Digitally signed  
by Molly Hacker  
Date: 2024.08.19  
10:24:03 -05'00'

Attachments



February 14, 2025

Mr. W. Byron Woods  
Municipal Consultants, Inc.  
200 Century Park South – Suite 212  
Birmingham, AL 35226

**RE: Pell City - Proposed Eden Lift Station and Forcemain**

Mr. Woods:

This letter is in response to your request for concurrence for the subject project. The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) does not know of any reason to oppose, and therefore concurs with the project. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Ball".

Charles E. Ball, AICP  
Executive Director